

VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION & NEWSPAPER

VOL. 5 NO. 7 OCTOBER 2002



DANCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

7 PM - 12 Midnight, Cetronia Fire Hall
18 S. Scenic St., Allentown PA

Celebrate National Coming Out Day by dancing with Pride of the Lehigh Valley. The event is sponsored by GLOSS

(Gay & Lesbian Outdoor Sports Society) & features a special partner dancing presentation as well as remix dance favorites by DJ Mary Glennon, refreshments, door prizes, cash bar and a 50/50 drawing. The event is open to all persons ages 18 and up. Proper ID required, Admission \$10.



OCTOBER 11 IS NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

Pride of the Lehigh Valley celebrates the 2nd Annual "Weekend OUT in the Valley." Scheduled events include: NCOD dance party (see adjacent article).

Book Reading & Signing, Saturday, October 12, 12:30 PM Historic Roxy Theatre, 2004 Main Street, Northampton PA.

Local author Roberta Kreider will review gay relationships through the stories of 26 GLBT couples from her book titled, "Together in Love." Free admission.

Film -- Saturday, October 12, 1:30 PM, Roxy Theatre. Presentation of the thought-provoking film, "Treading Water." An examination of situations that arise for GLBT individuals and their families. Admission: \$7.00.

Book Reading & Signing -- Sunday, October 13, 3:00 PM, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, MacArthur Rd., Whitehall. Award-winning author Louise Blum focuses on living as an out gay parent in small town America in her book: "You're Not From Around Here, Are You?" Free admission.

For more information: www.pridelv.org or (610) 770-6200.



AIDS WALK OCTOBER 6

TO VOLUNTEER, SPONSOR, FORM A TEAM, WALK, OR LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP: CALL 610-767-8695 OR CHECK: WWW.LEHIGHVALLEYAIDS.WALK.COM



NEPAH GALA GIVES GENEROUS DONATION TO PA-GALA & FACT

Unfortunately, the Northeastern PA Hispanic Gay & Lesbian Alliance has decided to disband. The Alliance has donated the full amount of its bank account -- half to PA-GALA and half to FACT. Board member Mayra Fernandez presented checks for \$1243 to each grateful group on Sept. 9.



FELIX MOLINA, LEPOCO, OTHERS WIN ATOWN HUMAN RELATIONS AWARDS

READ ALL ABOUT IT ON PAGE 2



SEE THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW LIVE AT CIVIC THEATER OCTOBER 4 -- 19.

READ ABOUT IT IN SCOTTS COLUMN -- PAGE 6

FRED PHELPS FOILED

VFP ANTI-HATE PLEDGE DRIVE AND QUICK, EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION BY MCCLV AND OTHERS, HAS STOPPED PHELPS FROM COMING TO BETHLEHEM IN SEPT.
READ MORE ABOUT IT ON PAGE 7

PA-GALA PARTY!!!

YOU'RE INVITED TO MEET FRIENDS & CANDIDATES & SUPPORT PA-GALA ON WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16

7:30PM - 9PM -- WINE & CHEESE AT THEATRE OUTLET, 29 N. 9TH ST.

SUGGESTED DONATION \$15 PER PERSON, \$25 COUPLES





THAT'S SO GAY

by Carolyn Lewis

As an experiment, ask your kids how many times a day they hear the phrase, "That's so gay," meant in the pejorative sense. I would venture to say that their answer might surprise you.

As part of my job, I have been spending a great deal of time lately in the schools. I was astonished at the number of times I heard racist, sexist, and, in particular, homophobic remarks. I heard them in the halls, in classrooms, and in the parking lot. I heard them mostly from students, but there were also a few questionable comments by teachers.

The most shocking aspect was how these remarks were condoned. They seem to have become a standardized part of speech. No longer are they whispered in the back of the room when the teacher isn't paying attention or in a dark section of the hallways at the end of the lockers. These comments are shouted across a crowded room or bellowed from one end of the hall to the other. There are seemingly no repercussions, no reprimands, and certainly no consequences.

And what are your children to do? The challenge of turning the tide on these comments is monumental and potentially dangerous and very few children are up to the task. So, what is the alternative? To be silent? To join the crowd? To be sure, there are no easy answers and no simple solutions. In some cases, it is simply not safe to take on the issue. Kids need to learn to assess the situation for safety before they try to take it on.

Sometimes even adults don't feel like tackling an issue. Maybe they're tired, cranky, short on patience, or the situation doesn't feel safe to them. Perhaps they sense that the person's mind won't be changed. Kids can learn that it's ok to let it go sometimes if that's what their instinct is telling them to do.

Whenever I come out in schools, which I do frequently, it is nearly always to address the epithets. I point out that I find them offensive and I ask for their cooperation in stopping the comments. I ask them to be an advocate for me when they hear such comments in the future. I have had a positive response to this approach, but I also have experience and training. Your kids likely have neither.

I have talked with Alyssa about what it is like at her school. She says it's pretty bad but she has come up with a strategy that seems to work somewhat for her. (We have, of course, left it to her to disclose our relationship to her comfort level. For now, she has chosen to tell her friends that I am her mom's lesbian roommate.) She has discovered that a debate about what's right and wrong is ineffective. Even if others understand that certain phrases are offensive, they insist that since they don't mean to be offensive, it doesn't count. Consequently, she has asked her friends not to say, "that's so gay" around her.

This is an important issue for many kids. Those who are gay are certainly affected, but so are those who have parents, other family members, or friends who are gay. They are measuring their safety and security against defending themselves or loved ones. The risks are high on both sides. Let them take it slowly. If they feel comfortable, have them start small with a close friend who will be receptive to a simple request. Remember that your kids have to spend a tremendous amount of time in school and that what you wish for them in theory may not work for them in practice. Enlist the help of your children's teachers if you can and if your kids are comfortable with that. But, above all, don't push if your children are resistant. Trust their instincts if they don't feel safe. And work toward giving them some guidance, some conflict resolution skills, and some bullying awareness. As much as we are on the front lines, sometimes, so are they.

2



RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, I want to set aside money to buy a home in 3 years and don't know where to invest the cash. The market doesn't seem like such a great place right now. Can you offer a suggestion or two? **Signed, Reluctant Investor**

Dear Reluctant, There are some basic rules for what I consider short-term planning with low-risk investments. This statement may be difficult to digest, given the current state of the market. First, understanding the relationship between time frame and investment risk can help you keep your money safe and sound and available when you need it. When it comes to short-term investment, planning has never been more important.

A 5 year goal or less, in my opinion, is short-term. You need to be looking at very stable, fixed types of investments like savings, money markets or CD's. Understandably, (but unfortunately for you at this time) interest rates are currently the lowest they have been in 30 years.

As year 2000 proved, a year is a long enough for a market like the NASDAQ to fall 40 percent, but not long enough for it to recover. You might risk a gamble if your goal is very flexible, but if you know you'll need the money within five years, diversify your portfolio to include more conservative investments, and don't count on the market to do what you want it to do.

Proper Diversification Will Save you Stress. You would be wise to put your money in relatively conservative investments, ones that won't make you rich or poor overnight. The shorter your time frame and the more crucial it is that you have the money on a certain date, the more conservative you should be. Certificates of deposit (CDs), money market mutual funds and short-term bond funds may be appropriate options. Consider staying on the conservative side by diversifying your risk through properly selected mutual funds or laddered CD's. Stagger the terms for when the CD begins or have them end on a specific target date.

Best of luck in the purchase of your new home.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Planner with American Express Financial Advisors located at 7248 Tilghman Street in Allentown. Please mail your questions or send e-mail to <Denise.M.McKelvey@AEXP.com>. Information provided within this column may not be appropriate for your specific financial situation.

PFLAG SCHEDULE

At the PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians And Gays) meeting on Oct. 1, Editor Roberta Showalter Kreider will speak about her book "Together in Love," a collection of faith stories by GLBT couples. Seven people who contributed stories will also be there to speak.

PFLAG LV will now meet monthly at the Allentown First Presbyterian Church (Cedar Crest Blvd. and Tilghman St.) on first Tuesdays at 7:00 pm., in Room 115. Contact: pflag@fast.net or (610) 967-5219 for more information. PFLAG Board elections will take place in November. There are also PFLAG meetings in Reading, Pottsville and Monroe County:

October 1, 2002 Allentown Meeting AT THE NEW LOCATION

October 5, 2002	Monroe County Meeting
October 15, 2002	Reading Meeting
October 17, 2002	Pottsville Meeting
November 2, 2002	Monroe County Meeting
November 5, 2002	Allentown Meeting
November 19, 2002	Reading Meeting
November 21, 2002	Pottsville Meeting
December 3, 2002	Allentown Meeting
December 7, 2002	Monroe County Meeting
December 17, 2002	Reading Meeting
December 19, 2002	Pottsville Meeting

HOT NEWS

GLORA SCHEDULE

The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown, presents several upcoming social events. October 26: Halloween / Costume party, at the Nostalgia Bar in Reading. November 2, Potluck at DJ and Sandy's. December 8, GLORA's 13th anniversary celebration at the Bower's Hotel. For further information on these and other GLORA events email GLORAinPA@aol.com, or write to: GLORA, PO BOX 1952, Allentown, PA 18105-1952, to find out how to receive GLORA's newsletter The Tassle.

GLSEN MEETING

On Monday, October 14, GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) of The Greater Lehigh Valley will meet at 7:00 pm in rooms 108-109 of the Seeger Student Union on the Muhlenberg College campus. All students, staff, and interested community members are invited to attend.

The meeting will focus on finding ways to get the GLSEN message to schools and colleges and on creating an annotated GLBT book list for schools and libraries. Refreshments will be served. Additional meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month with November 11 and December 9 being the remaining fall dates.

GLSEN's aim is to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

GLOSS SCHEDULE

The Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society is not only sponsoring Pride's National Coming Out Day dance on Oct. 11, (see page 1) but GLOSS will hold a Game Night on Sat., Oct. 12 at 7pm, at Steve's house. For further information email GLOSS (fabio@early.com) or check the GLOSS hotline: 610-434-2966.

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY SAFE SPACE

The Safe Space organization at Lehigh University is starting up again. A recent meeting was attended by 45 people. To learn more about Lehigh's Safe Space group or to participate, contact Cecilia Stanton through the Office of Multicultural Affairs or at <ces8@Lehigh.edu>.

3

HAVEN

HAVEN is the original social & support group for GLBT 14-20 yr. olds with weekly meetings at the Unitarian Universalist Church (424 Center St.). Now there's "HAVEN 2" for 18-24 yr. olds. The groups meet in separate rooms at 7pm every Wednesday. "HAVEN 2" is a temporary name, to be used until the new members come up with a name. They will also be planning their own activities which are not limited to meetings.

Open House

There will be a multi-media presentation for anyone wishing to learn more about the HAVEN program. It will be held at 2-4 pm & again at 7-9 pm at the church on Tuesday, October 29. Those especially encouraged to attend are guidance counselors, youth advisors, college representatives, therapists, parents, teens, young adults, & people interested in becoming a facilitator.

Facilitator Recruitment

HAVEN is still looking for facilitators. To be considered for an interview, you must submit an application. You must also be over 25 yrs. old & present background clearance. For more info on any of the above, contact HAVEN at 610-868-2153 or havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

AHRC AWARDS WINNERS

The Allentown Human Relations Commission announces the Award Winners for the 25th Annual Human Relations Awards Dinner to be on Oct. 10, 5:30 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel, Allentown. Eugene McDuffie, Stacie McKeever, Felix Molina, LEPOCO and State Farm Insurance are the award winners to be recognized. The Keynote Speaker will be Allentown Mayor Roy C. Afflerbach.

Felix Molina, nominated by VFP publisher Liz Bradbury, is to be recognized for his extensive work with the Puerto Rican Cultural committee and also for his work as Chair of the Human Relations commission in 1998, when he helped begin the lobbying effort that ultimately passed the addition of sexual orientation to the Human Relations Ordinance of the city, five years later.

Tickets to the dinner are \$30 per person or \$225 for a table of 8. Reservations must be made no later than Wednesday, October 3, 2002. For reservations and information, contact Nicholas Butterfield, at (610)-437-7661 or e-mail Butterfield@Allentowncity.org

FUN! FUN! FUN!! ANNUAL OLDIES DANCE

On Saturday, October 5, 2002 the Miz's Softball team will sponsor its fourth oldies dance with music from the 70's, 80's, and 90's, at Hanover Township Fire Company off of Rt 512 by Wegman's. The event will take place from 6:30 -11:00 p.m. and is smoke-free. The cost of the tickets are \$25.00 per couple and \$ 15.00 for individuals in advance. Tickets at the door will be \$15.00 for everyone. The cost includes appetizers, dinner, and dancing. It is B.Y.O.B. (beverage). Come out and enjoy. Guaranteed to be a great time. To obtain tickets or for information, call Wendy at (610) 262-2519 or Sherri (610) 837-0757.

PRIDE ELECTIONS

It's time to elect a new Pride President, VP, Treasurer & Secretary. Pride is also looking for a few good people to join their board. If you are interested in running or wish to nominate someone, please contact Pride. Pride is holding their annual elections during their general meeting at 7pm on Thursday, Oct. 24 at the UUCLV (Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center St., Bethlehem). To be eligible to vote or run for the board you must have attended at least one Pride meeting during the current year. For further info: <http://www.pridelv.org> or 610)770-6200 or info@pridelv.org.

OVOM FILM

One Vision, One Mission would like to thank all who turned out for the filming of "The Shawn Bausher Show" to be part of the transgender documentary My Trans Mission. Reps from the Theatre Outlet helped to stage the talk show with music & lights and displaying the fun logo. Pizza Hut donated 20 pizzas for half time. The guests included performances by Lil Debbie and Simmer. The film, starring James, Rik, Adam, Cindy etc. will premiere in Spring 2003. For more information on OVOM or to volunteer, email STL327@hotmail.com.

STEVIE Z APPEARANCES

Stevie Z the piano man announces his concert dates for the rest of the year. Half of the tips from all of StevieZ's appearance are donated to a worthy cause. This period's recipient will be MCCLV.

Brick Tavern: Sat., October 5 and 12 from 6:30-9:30PM Mooselounge: Friday, Oct. 11 from 9PM-Midnight, Wednesday, Nov. 27 9PM-Midnight (First annual Thanksgiving Eve blast), And: Friday, December 20 9PM-Midnight (annual Christmas carol sing-a-long).

CALENDAR⁴

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDS WALK- AIDS WALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaids

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay&Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm

BEARS-1st Saturdays Monthly, 8pm, at the Stonewall, Moose Lounge 610-814-6916, Mtnbear@fast.net.

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

Enigma Players-- gacres@prolog.net equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GLEE at Air Products

GLASS-at Lehigh Univ., 610.758.3469

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA 18105-1952, email: GLORAIAPA@AOL.COM

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 610.434.2966.

GLSEN-Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network, 610-867-6641, csbarron21@aol.com

Meetings, at 7:00 pm in rooms 108-109 of the Seeger Student Union, Muhlenberg College

GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd Saturdays Monthly 7pm, 610.954.7775

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-215, email: havenyouthgroup@hitmail.com or zinnas@fast.net

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meet quarterly for fellowship and fun. 610-758-8642 or integritybeth@mindspring.com

KS-Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women

Contact: Chris at 610-868-0248, or Donna at 610.997.00607

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: lvgmc@hotmail.com, <www.lvgmc.org> phone 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem

MCC - Metropolitan Community office-424 Center St. Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays, 610.954.7775

NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, call 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 882-2531

19th St/Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

OVOM-LV Documentary Film Org.

PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Candidate Info Booklet, & Political Lobbying) For membership: send \$20 to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449 pa-gala.org

PFLAG -LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 <www.users.fast.net/~pflag>

Pride -Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>, <www.pridelv.org>

QUEST - Student group at Lafayette College

Farion Center Box 429 Easton, PA, <QUEST.Lafayette@hotmail.com>

OCTOBER 2002 NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		PFLAG A LVGMC GLOSS	2 HAVEN	3 GLOSS RAA	4 Rocky Horror Begins at Civic	5 PFLAG M GLOSS BEARS Dance Stevie Z
6 AIDS WALK MCC UUCLV	7 RAA	8 GLOSS MCC LVGMC	9 HAVEN	10 RAA GLOSS AHRG Dinner	NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY DANCE Stevie Z	12 GMLV Booksigning, Movie MCC Stevie Z
13 MCC Bingo Booksigning Lambda event	14 GLSEN RAA	15 LVGMC GLOSS PFLAG R	16 PA-GALA PARTY	17 RAA GLOSS PFLAG P	18 Rocky Horror Ends at Civic	19 WDIY Horror GLOSS
20 MCC WDIY UUCLV HMFF Bingo	21 MCC RAA	22 GLOSS LVGMC MCC	23 HAVEN	24 RAA GLOSS Pride Elections	25 "	26 WDIY GLOSS MCC Anniversary Dinner
27 MCC Bingo WDIY HMFF UUCLV	28 RAA	29 GLOSS LVGMC	30 HAVEN	31 RAA GLOSS		

NOVEMBER 2002 VOTE ON THE 5TH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 WDIY GLOSS BEARS PFLAG M GLORA
3	4 RAA GLSEN	5 Election Day PFLAG A	6 HAVEN	7 ACCO RAA GLOSS	8	9 GLOSS GMLV
10 MCC	11 RAA MCC	12 GLOSS LVGMC	13 HAVEN	14 ACCO RAA GLOSS	15	16 GLOSS WDIY
17 Bingo HMFF UUCLV MCC	18 RAA	19 PFLAG R LVGMC GLOSS	20 HAVEN	21 PFLAG P RAA ACCO GLOSS	22	23 GLOSS WDIY
24 Bingo HMFF UUCLV MCC	25 RAA	26 LVGMC GLOSS	27 Stevie Z HAVEN	28 Thanksgiving	29 Hanukkah	30 Hanukkah GLOSS WDIY

DECEMBER 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC Bingo UUCLV HMFF GLOSS	2 RAA	3 GLOSS LVGMC PFLAG A	4 HAVEN	5 ACCO RAA GLOSS	6	7 WDIY GLOSS BEARS PFLAG M
8 UUCLV GLORA Dinner GLOSS	9 RAA GLSEN	10 GLOSS LVGMC MCC	11 HAVEN	12 ACCO RAA GLOSS	13	14 GLOSS GMLV
15 MCC GLOSS UUCLV Bingo HMFF	16 RAA MCC	17 PFLAG R GLOSS LVGMC	18 HAVEN	19 ACCO PFLAG P RAA GLOSS	20 Stevie Z	21 GLOSS WDIY
22 MCC HMFF UUCLV MCC	23 RAA	24 MCC LVGMC GLOSS	25 Christmas	26 RAA ACCO GLOSS	27	28 GLOSS WDIY
29 Bingo HMFF UUCLV MCC	30 RAA	31 NEW YEARS				

Waukers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 12 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

AA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. Episcopal Church, 16th & Turner Atnw.

en- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., P.O. Box 157 Trexlertown 18087 - 610-814-530/0531

rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

leading P-FLAG 610.488.7533 or 670.8029

afe Space-At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469

aint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 10.435.1587

oftball-(Women's) call Diamondz, 610.865.1028

O - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 10-820-9270.

inity-26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417

JUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, 6018 610.866.7652.

'FP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449, ztrish@aol.com

'YH - Valley Youth House for emotionally troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481

VDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:00 pm

his Way Out, Assorted Women 7:30 pm. 610-94-8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

FACT BINGO @ DIAMONZ - SUNDAYS
MCC BLESSING OF RELATIONSHIPS
PLANNING MTG - THIRD MONDAYS
GLBT YOUTH GROUP
HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
LV BEARS - 1ST SATURDAYS
GAY MEN - 1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - TUES
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL - TUES & SATS
MCC BOOK STUDY 2ND & 4TH TUES

OCT 1 - PFLAG ALLENTOWN
OCT 4 - 19 ROCKY HORROR
OCT 5 - PFLAG MONROE
OCT 5 - OLDIES DANCE
OCT 5 - STEVE Z @ BRICK TAVERN
OCT 6 - AIDS WALK
OCT 10 - AHRC AWARDS DINNER
OCT 11
NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY
OCT 11 GLOSS NCOD DANCE
OCT 11 - STEVE Z @ MOOSELOUNGE
OCT 12 ROBERTA KRIEDER BOOK SIGNING
@ ROXY THEATER
OCT 12 - FILM "TREADING WATER"
OCT 12 - STEVE Z @ BRICK TAVERN
OCT 12 - DEDICATION BALT. MCC
WITH REV. RY PERRY
OCT 13 - LOUISE BLUM BOOK SIGNING @
B&N
OCT 13 - LAMBDA LEGAL EVENT
"LAUGHING OUT LOUD"
OCT 14 - GISEN MTG
OCT 15 - PFLAG READING
OCT 16 PA-CALA CANDIDATE NGT
OCT 17 - PFLAG POTTSVILLE
OCT 18-20
POCONO DANCE WEEKEND
OCT 24 - PRIDE MTG & ELECTIONS
OCT 25-26 THEATRE OUTLET
"ELEGIES FOR ANGELS, PUNKS & RAGING
QUEENS"
OCT 26 - MCC ANNIV DINNER
OCT 26 GLORA
HALLOWEEN PARTY
NOV 2 - PFLAG MONROE
NOV 2 - GLORA POTLUCK
NOV 5 ELECTION DAY
NOV 5 - PFLAG ALLENTOWN
NOV 19 - PFLAG READING
NOV 21 - PFLAG POTTSVILLE
NOV 27 - STEVE Z @ MOOSELOUNGE
DEC 3 - PFLAG ALLENTOWN
DEC 7 - PFLAG MONROE
DEC 8 - GLORA ANNIV DINNER
DEC 17 - PFLAG READING
DEC 19 - PFLAG POTTSVILLE
DEC 20 - STEVE Z @ MOOSELOUNGE

INFORMATION
SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
CALL TO CONFIRM
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

October 6 -MCC at AIDS WALK - registration is at 11:30am at the Bethlehem Rose Garden Park. The walk begins at 1:00. It is an easy 5K walk; a shorter route is also available. Sponsor sheets are available from Barb or Cathy at Sunday services. MCC is trying to get a visible team together.

October will be the **MONTH OF GOYA** at MCCLV. Aids Outreach is in need of any Goya brand products for their Latino clients. Please start picking up Goya products now. The donation bin will be available on the four Sundays in October.

MCC ANNIVERSARY DINNER

MCCLV's Annual Anniversary Buffet Dinner / Dance, on Saturday, October 26, will take place at the Lincoln Hotel (3833 Freemansburg Avenue) from 6-11 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the church. Tickets must be purchased by Oct. 13. MCCLV Awards of Appreciation will be presented.

POTTSVILLE PFLAG

Pottsville PFLAG's meeting location has changed to the Art and Ethnic Center (Yuengling Mansion) at 1440 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville. The next meeting will be at 7:00pm on Oct. 17. Liz Bradbury will be speaking on the history of gay and lesbian rights and culture. For more info call 570-624-1892 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN LIBBY

More than a few times since June's Pride Festival, I have heard people in my age bracket (the dreaded 35-45) lamenting the lack of involvement by the younger generation in all GLBT related issues, including HIV/AIDS awareness. The complaint, "They are not involved and are apathetic to the cause." The accused counter with, "Dude, I don't get it, what cause?"

Is it so surprising that there is a generation gap in this matter? The older GLBT population remembers when the words "queer", "fairy", "fag", "lezzie", "dyke" ...could strike terror in the heart of Jr. High Johnny who was secretly diggin' his best buddy. Or Glam Girl Sally, who was pining for the class tomboy. How many faces turned beet red when these words were whispered in a classroom or yelled on the playground? The only representations that America had of gay people were the extremely effeminate men used mostly for comic relief in movies and television. Lesbians were usually dramatized as psychotic or suicidal. If Bi and Trans were represented at all, it was for laughs.

These images are difficult for the younger GLBT community to understand. They are on a first name basis with Ellen, Rosie, and Will & Grace. Elton, Melissa, kd and various others are out and proud. There are gay marriages popping up all over the planet. With this kind of visibility the sheltered don't see the urgency in GLBT activism. Unless they pick up a copy of the VFP or another news magazine they have no idea what's up.

They are out to family, friends and teachers and go out to GLBT youth events. They have people like Oprah including them in her recent Humanitarian Award acceptance speech. They think they are living in the future we were working so hard to provide for them.

Are we living in the future we worked so hard to provide them? To a degree, but there is much work to be done. People like Fred Phelps are waiting to catch us sleeping. Most states have legislation in place to prevent gay marriage legislation, some (like those right here in Allentown) are attempting to rescind gay rights legislation and GLBT hate crimes are on the rise. One of the largest growing populations with HIV/AIDS are young gay men.

We are not learning from our history. Ignorance is the lock that keeps us chained to the past. Education, community, compassion are the keys that allow us to break free. So, to the elders...thank you for the dream. To the baby boomers...thank you for the commitment to the dream. To the Gen Xers...wake up!!!! there is still work to be done, dudes.



CIVIL UNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

To have your Vermont Civil Union listed here, or to get more information on how to get a Vermont Civil Union, email VFP at: <liztrish@aol.com>.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

MCC thanks everyone who donated school supplies from the "Giving Tree" for the 5 children referred by AIDS Outreach. This generosity enabled the "kids" to receive fully stocked backpacks to start the school year. Special thanks for a very generous gift certificate to a local department store for clothing as well.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR PLEDGE DRIVE PLEDGE ON LINE

MCC's website now has a link you can use to make donations specifically to MCCLV's "On the Move Fund." There is now a "Donate" button on the homepage. Visa and Mastercard are accepted, as well as Visa ATM cards. There is also a button to make pledges to the Anti-Hate (Anti-Fred Phelps) Pledge Drive. In the future, other buttons/links will be created for general contributions. https://www.paypal.com/xclick/business=mcclvhighvalley%40yahoo.com&item_name=On+the+Move+Fund

What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editors with questions
about gay and lesbian issues.



Dear WTA: The 9-11 Service and Fred Phelps...what happened? Signed: Missed it

Dear Missed it, Where the heck have you been? Here's a timeline:

--The Bethlehem Council of Churches invites MCCLV's Rev. Beth Goudy to participate in a 9-11 ecumenical community service of healing, reconciliation and remembrance.

--Calvary Baptist Church of Bethlehem drops out of participation due to MCC's (pro-gay) involvement.

--At the 9-11 service at 1st Presbyterian Church, a Baptist minister, Rev. Marshall Griffin, says that God allowed 9-11 because people present at the service did not speak out against removing prayer from school or against same sex marriage.

--A dozen GLBT people walk out of the service.

--Rev. Goudy, who was slated to speak right after Griffin, alters her presentation and speaks gently and eloquently of those who lost loved ones in the tragedy.

--Other MCC members try to talk to Griffin about his hurtful words. Griffin ignores them, says he will not apologize.

--Mainstream press coverage begins, editorials condemn Griffin as, at best, inappropriate.

--MCC asks Council of Churches for "Statement of Regret," with regard to Griffin's hurtful words. C.O.C. considers it.

--MCC congregation sends 57 individually signed post cards to Griffin saying they forgive him, also mentioning Matthew 22: 37-39 (Love thy Neighbor as thyself.)

--Baptist Minister Fred Phelps, infamous for picketing Matthew Shepard's funeral, calls the local media to say he'll come to Bethlehem from Kansas to discourage the Council of Churches from issuing a "Statement of Regret."

--When the Council of Churches hears about Phelps, they immediately issue the "Statement of Regret" to MCC, as does 1st Presbyterian Church. MCC is grateful.

--Phelps says he'll come anyway to picket the mainstream churches because they are all sodomites by association.

--Meanwhile, Valley Free Press begins a pledge drive to dissuade Phelps and benefit MCC. People pledge money for every minute Phelps will picket. Pledges flood in.

--Letters to the editor mostly condemn Phelps and his websites: God Hates Fag and God Hates America. Bill White's column reminds readers that the tactics of anti-gay group CTV, were actually far worse than Phelps.

--MCCLV and Rev. Goudy encourage llocal people to stay away from Phelps. They organize a prayer vigil for the time Phelps says he'll be in town. Diamonz is suggested as the safest place to hold the prayer vigil because it is surrounded by a private parking lot that Phelps cannot legally enter and because Phelps feels picketing gay places is not effectively sensational.

--Diamonz owner Lenora Johnson agrees to open Diamonz for the 9 am Sunday vigil.

--Phelps' wife suddenly remembers that he had something else to do and cancels, insisting he'll come in December. Amazingly the mainstream press continues to believe him.

--The up-beat prayer vigil at Diamonz goes on anyway and is attended by over 50 people. The GLBT community collects the pledges and declares another victory over hate!!!

FOR LEGAL INFO ON 2ND PARENT ADOPTION

For information on 2nd parent adoption or if your lawyer has questions call The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia toll free at 1-866-LGBT-LAW.

6

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



LET'S DO THE TIME WARP AGAIN!

When you hear the names: Columbia, Magenta and Riff Raff do you think of The Rocky Horror Picture Show, or a big college in New York, a deep purplish red color, and Anna Nicole Smith?

If you think of the former, come out and see The Rocky Horror Show. It is live at Civic Theater from October 4 to the 19th. Whether you are a Time Warp veteran or virgin, it is time to do it again.

Audience members are encouraged to shout out the lines that have become famous in the Rocky cult world and to sing along with the cast. No throwing stuff; leave the toast at home. The box office number is 610-432-8943. I am in the cast and hosting a social in the back room of Mom's Pizza on October 19. If you interested in attending on the 19th, email me at <scottlaubner@yahoo.com>. Stage-door Johnnys (and Jennies) can hang out afterwards so I can say "Hello."

Chimpunk Readers, this show is way over the top! I touch breasts in this show, talk about acting!

LAMBDA FUNDRAISER

Lambda Legal will host Laugh Out Loud, an evening celebrating Lambda's civil rights victories, including two recent victories in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Sunday, October 13. The Philadelphia event will feature top gay comedian Eddie Sarlaty of "Funny Gay Males," and two plaintiffs in Lambda's groundbreaking marriage lawsuit in New Jersey.

Event Chair Dan Anders says: We hope you will join us at Trust restaurant from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. to enjoy an evening cocktail reception and to support Lambda Legal's vital civil rights work. Tickets begin at \$100. For further information please contact (Event Chair) Dan Anders <ANDERSD@pepperlaw.com> or Mark Zumwalt at <mzumwalt@Lambdalegal.org> or 212.809.8585 x268

RENDELL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Rendell LV Office has moved to: UAW Local 677, Bottom Floor, 2101 Mack Blvd. Allentown, PA 18103 Phone: 610-434-9821

Ed Rendell Yard Signs are now available -- Stop by HQ to pick one up or request delivery by phone or e-mail <CTRogan1@aol.com>. Visits to the Lehigh Valley -- Ed Rendell is scheduled to visit the Lehigh Valley on: October 6 - Northampton County Democratic Picnic. October 20 - Rally in the Valley in Bethlehem, Van Bittner Steelworkers Local 4-6 pm, --Debate- State Theater in Easton, 8 pm.

PA-GALA AUTUMN PARTY

Don't forget -- You're invited to the, "Candidate Night" party put on by PA-GALA at Theater Outlet on Wednesday, October 16, 7:30pm to 9pm. This is the only PA-GALA fundraising event set for this half of the year. PA-GALA is the only Pennsylvania political organization fighting for the legal rights of the Lehigh Valley GLBTA community. PA-GALA relies on the financial support of people like you. Suggested donation is \$15 person, \$25 dollars for couples (or "just friends"). Fine wine and desserts will be served and you'll have a chance to talk to the candidates about your concerns and their views. Call 610-432-5449 for further information.

THEATRE OUTLET PRESENTS

TO2 Second Stage presents *Elegies for Angels, Punks & Raging Queens* on October 25 & 26 at 8 pm. to benefit F.A.C.T. This series of songs and monologues "reflect the broad spectrum of people infected and affected by AIDS," says Bill Russell the author of the book and lyrics. The music is by Janet Hood. Tickets: \$17 general, \$20 for cabaret. The Theatre Outlet is located at 29 N 9th St., Allentown. 610-820-9270 or e-mail theatreo@aol.com.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the bases listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8, and asks that organizations or individuals which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.



A VIEW FROM A DYKE

By Liz Bradbury

HOW THE PLEDGE DRIVE WORKED, AND WHO PLEDGED

Valley Free Press began an Anti-Hate Pledge Drive immediately after hearing about Phelps' intended visit. It's not a new idea. Other communities have used this successfully in the past, against Phelps

and the KKK.

The key was to move fast. Email and a great network of active community members made it work. Within ten minutes of sending out the first email, two pledges had come in, and didn't stop until long after Phelps suddenly remembered he had to be somewhere else that day.

The pledge drive and a well-organized pro-tolerance community stopped Phelps' coming. If you pledged, it was you who did it!

Phelps had just confirmed, live (by phone) on Tuesdays' WAEB Bobby Gunther Walsh radio show, that he was coming, but on Wednesday his wife told the local press he had been previously scheduled to be somewhere else...sure. The mainstream press bought his face saving insistence that he would come in December. He probably won't ever show up here, but if he does, we will be ready for him. His words and presence actually do far more to get support for GLBT people than to hurt us.

It's groups like Citizens for Traditional Values, based right here in the Lehigh Valley, who are the most hurtful. Even though CTV hasn't succeeded with their referendum to remove our rights this time, there is nothing to stop them from trying again.

People who disguise their hatred by calling themselves religious, those who work to remove legal rights by saying they are proponents of democracy...they are the most dangerous. They are the ones we have to guard against everyday. We have to be registered to vote. We have to work for pro-GLBT candidates. We have to support PA-GALA financially and by volunteering. And we have to be out and proud.

Pledge drive names and numbers:

An anonymous donor from UUCLV pledged \$1000 if Phelps showed up for even one minute. Fifty additional people from UUCLV banded together to pledge hundreds of dollars. PFLAG LV made a donation to cover the prayer meeting refreshments. Most of the pledges were from local people, but we did have two pledges from Alaska and one from Baltimore. Several elected and appointed officials in Allentown pledged, including Mayor Roy Afflerbach, City Council member Gail Hoover, and City Controller Frank Concannon.

Those who pledged, heard about the drive by word of mouth, from the Morning Call or Express Times or by email. There was no mailing or phone banking necessary. The entire pledge drive took less than a week to, "change the plans" of the Phelps bunch.

The total amount pledged, if Phelps had actually shown up, would have been \$15.65 per minute. The maximum amount was over \$4000 dollars (some people did not cap their pledges at all), and the flat pledge amount raised for MCCLV, whether Phelps showed up or not, was at least \$1709. See page 5 to find out how you can mail or email in your pledged amount.

Over 160 people pledged: Here's a list, first names only, of those who pledged or donated: Grace, Bryon, Candido, Carolyn, Cathy, Barb, Chris, Dan, John, Deb, Vanessa, Dennis, Don, Melinda, Donna, Denise, Elizabeth, Jack, Patrick, Jill, Jim, Jill, Robert, Judy, Julia, Donald, Kate, Kit, Laura, Anne, Lenora, Lenore, Liz, Trish, Lynne, Mark, Mike, Nadine, Rebecca, Chris, William, Scott, Tim, Carol, Tom, Tom, Tom, Tracy, Jill, Wendy, Peach, William, Charlene, Robin, Bev, Sandy, Steve, Karen, Nick, James, Erlinda, Felix, Alfred, Edgar, Anna, Janet, Lauren, Allyson, Claire, John, Dave, Helen, Gail, Anthony, Roy, Siobhann, Emerich, Matt, Ed, Frank, Rita, Claire, John, Dena, Tracey, Ann, Bob, Frank, Bridgette, Lauren, Sue, Elaine, Weston, Diane, Chris, Ed, Ilse, Stevie, Pete, Mim, Judy, Cassie, Tia, JJ, Linda, Lee, Fred, Karol, Kristen, Judy, Rebecca, Carol, PFLAGLV, and UUCLV. Thank you!

7

TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan

YOU AND YOUR PARTNER WANT TO CHANGE YOUR NAMES? HERE'S HOW.

There are many reasons why people change their names. It is a very common occurrence in America.

The most common is of course, when a woman marries and takes her husband's name.

Some people just don't like their names. Think about it. What if your name was....oh, well, I'm not going to risk offending anybody by giving an example, but I am sure you can come up with your own list of, "Thank goodness my name isn't....!"

Some people change their names to disassociate themselves from their families, who may be totally un-accepting and un-supportive of them. Transgender persons may change their names to be consistent with their gender. Gay and lesbian couples may change their names because it is a formal statement they can make about their committed relationship to each other. Gay or lesbian couples with children, may change their names so they will all be more easily identified as a family.

There are some disadvantages to changing one's name to that of your same-sex partner. Clueless people will assume you are sisters or brothers. (People sometimes assume that I am Liz's mom, even though we don't have the same last name.) More to the point, there is a personal cost in time and expense to change your name or names on a wide variety of documents and accounts. These may include deeds, mortgages, driver's license, automobile registration, credit cards, voter registration, wills, powers of attorney, investments, passports, income tax records, social security #, insurance, etc.

Until recently, if you wanted to change your name, you needed to hire an attorney at a base cost of \$500. Now, however, it is possible for an individual to file the Petition for Name Change, for themselves at the County Court House without a lawyer.

We at the VFP are not attorneys and we do not give legal advice. We recommend that you consult your attorney to understand how changing your name legally will or will not affect your individual situation. Also, changing the name of a minor child is more complicated than the simple name change process described here for adults.

If you want to change your name in Lehigh County, **First**, you must complete a one page form, "Petition for Name Change," available from the Lehigh County Court Administrator on the 6th floor of the County Court House. You must give your name, date of birth, current address, social security number, and you must be a U.S. citizen and swear that you have no legal judgments against you. Then, you must state in writing why you wish to change your name. **Second**, you must go to the police and complete a fingerprint card, which you will be required to submit with your "Petition for Name Change."

Then you take the papers to the Clerk of Court along with a \$97.50 filing fee. You will be given a hearing date. **Third**, you must go to the Recorder of Deeds and obtain a certification concerning the existence of any recorded mortgages. There is a fee for this also, but it will cost you less than \$10. **Fourth**, you are required to publish in the *Morning Call* and the *Lehigh Law Journal*, your intention to change your name and the date of the hearing. Publication of this information will cost you about \$75 for each periodical. **Fifth**, go to the Court Hearing and bring with you the two proofs of the publication of your notice to change your name and the name change certification from the Recorder of Deeds. The judge will make a determination on your case and if there is no legal objection, your name change will be granted.

TO ORDER THE STEEL CHOIR CD

The new CD, "Carry It On" by The Steel Choir of Bethlehem can be ordered from Beverly Morgan at 1421 Nectarine Rd. Danielsville, PA 18038, or 610-760-1759. Cost \$15 + \$2 mailing, \$17.



POP QUIZ 8

1. Which of Michaelangelo's sculptures did he sign?
A. David B. Winter C. Pieta D. none of them

2. Cher's (first) last name was:
A. Bono B. Sarkisian C. Redfoot D. Alman

3. Andy Warhol was famous for ____ Art.
A. Pop B. Op C. Dada D. NewAge

4. Stonewalling is a term associated with what sport?
A. Polo B. Cricket C. Rugby D. Curling

5. One of the main reasons Oregon anti-gay referendum pusher Lou Malon was unable to get enough signatures on his petitions was that he was:
A. underfunded B. on vacation
C. in jail D. getting divorced

-- The Human Rights Campaign has rated major US Corporations on pro-GLBT policies. 100 points is the best. What did each of these Corporations score?
Possible scores: 0, 14, 29, 43, 57, 71, 86, 100

6. Coke
7. Pepsi
8. Domino's Pizza
9. Verizon
10. Sprint
11. Walmart
12. Target
13. Apple Computer
14. Lucent
15. Gateway Computer
16. Kmart
17. Levi Strauss
18. L.L. Bean
19. Cracker Barrel
20. Quaker Oats
21. Kellogg
22. General Mills



16-43 17-86 18-57 19-0 20-57 21-71 22-86
10-29 11-14 12-86 13-100 14-100 15-43
10-29 11-14 12-86 13-100 14-100 15-43
10-29 11-14 12-86 13-100 14-100 15-43

**TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION
TO THE VALLEY FREE PRESS
JOIN PA-GALA BY SENDING \$20
TO: PA-GALA, P.O. BOX 20825
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**THIS VFP WAS UNDERWRITTEN BY
THE PUBLISHERS**

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the LV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theater

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (liztrish@aol.com).

QUOTE #1

"Many parents and relatives may never ask anything about your life because they think that would be intrusive or violate your privacy. After all, if you don't talk about it, they may feel you are letting them know that you don't want to talk about it. For all they know, you are uncomfortable about being gay." -
-- Syndicated columnist Paul Varnell, July 21, 2002

QUOTE #2

..(W)hy can't I go back to the days (in the closet) when things seemed easier?... That is the seductive part of oppression. Everything seems easier, but in the long run it is actually a lot harder on the psyche to live in restriction than it is to live in freedom."

-- From Rev. Elizabeth Goudy's sermon, "The Fear" Sept. 22, 2002

QUOTE #3

"Be yourself. Race. Ethnicity. Religion. Nationality. Gender. Sexual orientation. In the end, there's just one variety of human being. The individual. All six billion of us."

-- From a new Merrill Lynch ad that also displays fingerprints of many colors.

QUOTE #4

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -- Anthropologist Margaret Mead

QUOTE #5

...The people of the Lehigh Valley are no different from others who have found ways to peacefully be neighbors. Rev. Griffin's ill-chosen words have opened wounds that will heal only slowly. It may not be the belief of some fundamentalists that differences are acceptable, but the American experiment depends on exactly that.
-- MorningCall "Our View" editorial, Sept. 25

Distelfink
10/02 by Ruby Zebu

Phelps family of five can't make that stretch.

Phelps says he's stretched to thin to come to Bethlehem.

Its nice to know hate doesn't go as far as it used to.



**"INSPIRED BY DON KOHNS STATEMENT
AT THE MCC PRAYER VIGIL.**

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